



# **SSDC COUNTER FRAUD STRATEGY**

## **ACTION PLAN**

*April 2017 – March 2018*

**In conjunction with the content of SSDC's 'Counter Fraud, Theft and Bribery Strategy', this Action Plan has been written to detail the tasks, subject to resources, which we aim to complete in the period 01<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and to give an update on progress over the last year. The Action Plan comprises four distinct sections, and within each, the tasks are listed in a descending order in terms of their priority.**

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**Lynda Creek:** Fraud and Data Manager  
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*November, 2017*

**1) RAISING AWARENESS OF FRAUD:**

Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
1.1	<b>A periodic fraud risk assessment to be commissioned.</b> This will enable SSDC to gain a more detailed awareness of the severity of corporate fraud risks, and those most in need of prompt counteraction. The need for such an assessment was endorsed by SWAP in a recent fraud audit. Completing the task is contingent upon securing the necessary counter fraud resources to undertake whatever mitigation work is identified.	An overall risk assessment is still to be undertaken, however most key areas have had a recent audit by SWAP	Subject to data protection issues being resolved, we hope to have a new trial partnership arrangement with Oxford City Council (OCC) to provide a Fraud Investigation Service. The lack of investigative resource hampers progress on counter fraud work. The first step will be meeting with them to discuss a work plan including an overall risk assessment.
	<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	1.2, 1.19, 2.16, 3.8, 5.1	SWAP Audit: 1.1a
	<b>Priority</b>	High	
	<b>Resources</b>	OCC to carry out assessment to be agreed with Fraud and Data Manager.	
	<b>Outcome</b>	Awareness of the scope and degree of corporate fraud risks, as well as the means to alleviate them	
	<b>Performance Measures</b>	When a regular occurrence, comparing risk assessments will show the extent of any progress achieved	

Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
1.2	<b>The content relating to fraud on both 'InSite' and the external webpage to be updated.</b> Both websites have been brought into line with the Strategy, and clearly state the Council's zero tolerance approach to fraud. Links will be provided to the range of counter fraud policies and procedures, including safe reporting routes, as and when they are finalised. A single fraud hotline and a dedicated website for Somerset have been established, and steps are being taken to ensure that reporting routes are as efficient as possible.	InSite and the external website are both up to date. A new internal fraud referral form has been introduced to 'streamline' the process of reporting fraud internally..	Further work could be done with the Transformation Team to help improve the efficiency of the reporting routes.
	<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	2.1	
	<b>Priority</b>	Medium-High	

	<b>Resources</b>	Fraud and Data team in conjunction with the Transformation team.		
	<b>Outcome</b>	A user-friendly website, which in addition to listing SSDC Policy, clearly and concisely promotes zero tolerance culture, the duty to report suspicions, and the expedient reporting routes available to do so		
	<b>Performance Measure</b>	Analysis of website content in comparison with best practice, and an increase in successful referrals		
Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments	
1.3	<b>Employee/Member training and awareness sessions to be provided.</b> As all SSDC staff and members play a role in the delivery of the Counter-Fraud, Theft and Bribery Strategy, the training provided by SWCFP signposts information relating to fraud, the Council's zero tolerance culture, and the duty to report any reasonable suspicions in accordance with procedures outlined in the Council's Whistleblowing Policy. The counter fraud training will be promoted throughout the organisation.	Most staff received Fraud Awareness Session from SWCFP but no progress has been made in devising a similar session for Members. Again this is due to a lack of resources within the Fraud & Data Team.	It may be possible that OCC will be able to deliver training but the priority will be for them to undertake some investigations on some outstanding cases.	
	<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	2.1, 2.12, 3.25, 3.36	SWAP Audit: 1.4b	
	<b>Priority</b>	Medium		
	<b>Resources</b>	Fraud and Data Manager in conjunction with Officer responsible for Member Development.		
	<b>Outcome</b>	Staff and Member awareness of fraud risks, key aspects of policy, and the appropriate procedures to follow		
	<b>Performance Measure</b>	Comprehension of the fraud 'red tag' signs and knowledge of reporting routes and actions if fraud is suspected etc		
Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments	
1.4	<b>A fraud awareness induction for all new employees and all recently elected members to be provided.</b> Fraud awareness will be provided during the Induction session for new employees, and the Member's Development for new members. Using the Strategy as a focal point, the content will raise awareness of the standards of conduct expected, the need to make an appropriate disclosure of interests, gifts, and hospitality, the appropriate means to report suspicion of misconduct, and where to seek further advice.	Yet to be included in inductions for staff.	The Fraud & Data Team will work with the Scrutiny Manager to ensure that counter fraud remains in the induction of all Members and will work with HR on including it as an induction topic for new employees	
	<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	2.1, 2.12, 3.12, 3.17, 3.25		
	<b>Priority</b>	Medium		
	<b>Resources</b>	Fraud and Data Manager, in conjunction with HR and Democratic Services Manager		

	<b>Outcome</b>	All new staff and Members will be aware of the zero tolerance approach to Fraud, as well as how to report suspicions		
	<b>Performance Measure</b>	Comprehension of the fraud 'red tag' signs and knowledge of reporting routes and actions if fraud is suspected etc plus review of questionnaires at the end of each counter fraud induction session		
Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments	
1.5	<b>Appropriate guidance on publicising Counter Fraud incidents to be developed.</b> In order to improve the methods through which the Council raise awareness of what constitutes fraud and the means to report fraudulent acts, the way that counter fraud guidance is delivered will be examined. As part of this process, the issues surrounding the publication of internal and external frauds will be brought before both senior management and members for consideration, and once agreed, the guidance will be disseminated as widely as appropriate as part of the Counter Fraud, Theft and Bribery Policy.	Although included in the updated draft Policy, the loss of the Intern post last November, meant a lack of resource within the Fraud & Data Team to progress finalising the Policy	Traditionally there has been a reluctance to publish any incidences of internal fraud due to possible damage to SSDC's reputation, but this mind set is changing. Acknowledging any weaknesses leads to the formation of better safeguards.	
	<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	4.2	SWAP Audit: 2.1a	
	<b>Priority</b>	Medium-Low		
	<b>Resources</b>	Fraud and Data Team (when time permits), in partnership with the Communications Team		
	<b>Outcome</b>	A clear programme of Counter Fraud publications, endorsed by the Communications Team		
	<b>Performance Measure</b>	Assessing the use of publications by comparing current and previous tip-offs, detection rates etc. will give an indication as to how effective such campaigns are in reducing the extent of fraud		
<b>2) ESTABLISHING A POLICY FRAMEWORK:</b>				
Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments	
2.1	<b>The SSDC Counter Fraud, Theft and Bribery Policy to be fundamentally revised.</b> The Policy will assist decision making by concisely describing SSDC's approach to fraud, theft, bribery, acts of dishonesty and the abuse of a position of trust. The Policy will be available to all employees, members, contractors and third parties, and will provide them with links to other documents in the counter fraud governance framework.	An updated draft Policy, the loss of the Intern post last November, meant a lack of resource within the Fraud & Data Team to progress finalising the Policy	An accessible Counter Fraud Policy is in place, but it has not been updated since 2007, and therefore needs to be brought in line with the Strategy.	
	<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	1.5, 2.1, 2.8, 4.8	SWAP Audit: 1.1b	
	<b>Priority</b>	High		

<b>Resources</b> <b>Outcome</b> <b>Performance Measure</b>	Fraud and Data Team in conjunction with the Fraud and Data Manager A relevant and up to date Fraud Policy, which corresponds closely with the approved Strategy Staff and members understand the correct procedure to implement upon receiving allegations of fraud, and find the content of the Policy assists with their decision making		
Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
2.2	<b>A Fraud Response Plan to be drafted for approval by both senior management and members.</b> The Plan will first detail the appropriate measures to undertake should corporate fraud be discovered, and then, as corporate fraud is perpetrated in a variety of ways, the Plan will provide specialised investigative guidance which corresponds to the particular type of fraud, and ensures that the correct operating protocols and appropriate resources/skill sets are deployed.	Large sections of the Fraud Response Plan have been included into the Counter Fraud Policy so a separate Response Plan may not be needed.. No progress has been made on the Policy in the last year due to a lack of resource in the Fraud & Data Team.	A first draft of the Plan has been completed. Before completion, the appropriate investigative resources must be determined for inclusion into the Plan.
<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b> <b>Priority</b> <b>Resources</b> <b>Outcome</b> <b>Performance Measures</b>	1.5, 1.9, 4.24 <b>High</b> Fraud and Data Team A comprehensive reference point which provides a specific recourse following any incidence of fraud Evaluation as to the effectiveness of the Fraud Response Plan following any incident of fraud.		

Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
2.3	<p><b>As part of the overall Counter Fraud Policy (see 2.2) a Formal Sanctions Policy to be drafted for approval by Senior Management and Members.</b> The Sanctions Policy, which has now been incorporated into the Counter Fraud Policy, will detail generally how specific sanctions are to be applied in relation to a list of criteria to be taken into consideration in each case. The Policy will also ensure that the action taken corresponds to the particular type and scale of the fraud, and that any necessary financial compensation or other forms of redress are achieved.</p>	Although included in the updated draft Policy, due to a lack of resource in the Fraud & Data Team, no further progress has been made in the last year.	Though the application of the appropriate sanctions is relatively consistent in relation to the type of fraud discovered, there is no formal Sanctions Policy to demonstrate the procedures currently in place.
	<p><b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b> 1.5, 2.1, 4.21</p> <p><b>Priority</b> <b>Medium-High</b></p> <p><b>Resources</b> Fraud and Data Team in association with Legal Services</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> A clear and consistent policy on the application of sanctions where fraud is proven</p> <p><b>Performance Measure</b> Review of the policy so as to ensure sanctions are applied evenly, and to further safeguard the Council</p>	SWAP Audit: 1.4a	
Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
2.4	<p><b>The SSDC independent Whistleblowing Policy to be revised.</b> The Whistleblowing Policy has now been revised and approved and has been disseminated to all employees, members, contractors and third parties so that the procedures within become as widely adopted as possible. There will be continued effort to promote the Policy, including references to it in the Counter Fraud Policy</p>	The current Whistleblowing Policy is available on InSite and the public website.	The Policy was revised and is due to be reviewed in July 2018.
	<p><b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b> 1.15, 2.1, 2.8, 3.15, 3.20, 4.3, 4.8</p> <p><b>Priority</b> <b>Medium-High</b></p> <p><b>Resources</b> Fraud and Data Team, in correspondence with the Fraud and Data Manager</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> A concise and relevant Whistleblowing Policy which corresponds with the content in the Strategy</p> <p><b>Performance Measure</b> The effectiveness in encouraging staff to bring matters forward (not just fraud allegations) of concern. Feedback from the appropriate officers to design out, in particular, any vulnerability to the risk of fraud, and the number of fraud referrals received through this route</p>	SWAP Audit: 2.2a	
Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments

2.5 **An Annual Fraud Programme to be presented to Audit Committee to keep them informed of counter fraud work.** The Audit Committee are obligated to make certain that counter fraud and corruption arrangements are in place, and accordingly, an annual Fraud Programme should be delivered to them. The Plan will assess the effectiveness of corporate fraud initiatives in the previous six months, and any areas in need of revision. The Plan will also detail initiatives for the next six months, including how the resources available are to be focused towards the most severe fraud risks.

The report and this revised Action Plan constitute the Fraud Programme.

A lack of resource added to by the demands of Transformation and other work streams delayed the preparation of Annual Fraud Programme.

<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	1.5, 1.21, 2.12, 5.2	SWAP Audit: 1.1b
<b>Priority</b>	Medium	
<b>Resources</b>	Report to be prepared and presented by the Fraud and Data Team each year.	
<b>Outcome</b>	An Annual Programme which details the successes in countering fraud, and the areas to be revised	
<b>Performance Measure</b>	Once an initial report is drafted, future success will be determined by comparison with the previous year	

Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
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2.6	<b>An Overview Spreadsheet of Fraud Occurrences to be established to list past incidences of corporate fraud.</b> This would provide a complete picture of fraud incidents and risks across the Council, detailing what type of fraud took place, the method(s) through which it came to light, and the safeguards needed to stop a reoccurrence. By sharing the lessons learnt, and by critically examining the procedures followed when fraud has been discovered, a clear indication of risks will become apparent, as will the processes which remain effective, and the practices requiring amendment.	Although this would be useful information it has proved difficult to secure the information about previous frauds, and so the decision was made to focus on following up on previous audit recommendations where these are known.	An overview of fraud occurrences can be maintained in the future. This task will be removed from the next Action Plan and consideration given to how future incidents of corporate fraud can feed into changes in work practices
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<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	1.7, 1.20, 2.2
<b>Priority</b>	Medium-Low
<b>Resources</b>	Case files to be provided by Service Managers, Investigations Team, and SWAP.
<b>Outcome</b>	A Spreadsheet detailing historic instances of fraud for the use of the Fraud and Data Manager
<b>Performance Measure</b>	A more comprehensive picture of fraud risks, minimising the risk of similar fraud reoccurring

3) PROCEDURAL CHANGES:

Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
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3.1	<p><b>The remit of the Corporate Governance Group (CGG) to be extended to include specific reference to counter fraud work.</b> At such time, membership of the CGG should be granted to the Fraud and Data Manager, so that she is in the communication loop on fraud related issues. This will enable direct awareness as to the extent of fraud risks both within and across different departments, as well as how such matters fit with other governance issues. The CGG will also have a chance to be briefed by the Fraud and Data Manager on relevant fraud risks.</p>	<p>The Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer felt that it was not necessary for the Fraud and Data Manager to be a formal member of this Group. There would be two-way communication between the CGG and the Fraud and Data Manager on issues relevant to fraud (and data) matters.</p> <p>SWAP Audit: 1.2a</p>	<p>Any issues can be sent to the CGG, and as and when this is necessary will provide a platform to raise the general issue surrounding the CGG. This task will be removed from the next Action Plan No doubt as part of Transformation the role of CGG will be reviewed so it is 'fit for purpose'.</p>
	<p><b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b> 2.11</p> <p><b>Priority</b> High</p> <p><b>Resources</b> Assistant Director – Legal and Corporate Services, Fraud and Data Manager</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> Fraud is specifically addressed by Senior Management. Fraud and Data Manager included in CGG</p> <p><b>Performance Measure</b> CGG has a wider remit and membership, demonstrating the corporate adoption of counter-fraud</p>		

Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
3.2	<p><b>The Risk Management System (TEN) to be revised so that all corporate fraud risks are integrated.</b> Rather than being listed amongst other operational risks by each service, corporate fraud risks should be located under one section on the system. The current system hinders a true picture of corporate fraud being developed, but if all risks associated with corporate fraud can be brought together, then a clearer and more accurate assessment of such risks can be made.</p>	<p>There remains an inherent weakness in the TEN system in only allowing each risk to be in one category.</p>	<p>It is hoped that through the Transformation Programme TEN will be replaced and that the 'flagging' of fraud risks will be considered by the 'Build Team'.</p>
	<p><b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b> 3.3, 4.4, 4.5</p> <p><b>Priority</b> Medium-High</p> <p><b>Resources</b> Fraud and Data Manager, with services managers to complete the procedural change necessary</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> Fraud &amp; Data Manager has a detailed awareness of the preparedness of other services concerning the potential risks they face from fraud, and what each department is doing to mitigate these risks</p> <p><b>Performance Measure</b> A greater understanding of all risks that the Council face in relation to fraud</p>	<p>SWAP Audit: 1.2a</p>	

Ref	Key Task	Status	Additional Comments
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**3.3 The Fraud and Data Manager to be able to access SWAP Reports commissioned by SSDC on issues related to fraud.** Linking with task 2.6, this would enable the Fraud and Data Manager to gain awareness of all audit recommendations concerning counter fraud issues. As things stand, the Assistant Director – Finance receives a copy of every audit report produced by SWAP as a result of their analysis into the Council’s procedures, policies and safeguards. Inclusion would provide detailed insight into departmental measures to prevent fraud, as well as the cross-departmental ability of SSDC as an organisation to mitigate losses.

Although a list of some recommendations re fraud issues made in recent audit reports was obtained a lack of resource has meant only very limited progress has been made on checking on their implementation.

A view into whether and how they have been implemented is needed however this task is subject to resources being secured. Some councils have procured an electronic checking system to ensure audit recommendations are implemented. Perhaps the Transformation ‘Build Team’ can consider if this option is feasible.

<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	2.1, 2.9, 2.11 3.2, 3.4, 4.5
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Resources</b>	Fraud and Data Team
<b>Outcome</b>	Thorough understanding of measures taken to prevent fraud through access to SWAP recommendations
<b>Performance Measure</b>	recommendations from SWAP are implemented or valid reasons given why they are not being followed and the risks of not doing so properly assessed

Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
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<b>3.4</b>	<b>A monitoring system to be devised so that delivery of the Action Plan does not have an adverse impact upon protected characteristics.</b> Such an assessment will give due consideration to the varying requirements of the residents of South Somerset. This will include measures to ensure accessible external documents, inclusive in-house training, and policies/procedures which have no adverse impact upon protected characteristics.	Housing Benefit referrals are now out of our hands, but we will review other referrals and investigations with a view to equalities where such details are provided or identified.	There will be ongoing communication with the officer handling equalities issues to ensure that any adverse effects resulting from the completion of tasks are made apparent and then removed, mitigated or managed
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<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	1.20
<b>Priority</b>	Medium-Low
<b>Resources</b>	Fraud and Data Team in conjunction with officers responsible for equalities
<b>Outcome</b>	The successful undertaking of the Action Plan, without disadvantaging protected characteristics

**Performance Measure** Assessment of the monitoring system by the Equalities Officer and the Equalities Steering Group

**4) PROACTIVE COUNTER FRAUD INITIATIVES:**

Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
4.1	<p><b>The county-wide fraud hotline and dedicated website for the reporting of all types of corporate fraud to be reviewed.</b> It was recognised that enabling people across the county to report fraud in one place could lead to a substantial reduction in corporate fraud losses, and so a variety of mediums have been put in place for those wishing to register their suspicions of malpractice. To ensure effectiveness, the hotline and website need to be reviewed, in terms of the number of users, the accessibility of the services, and the quality of the data generated through fraud referrals.</p>	<p>Continues to work well for the public. A new internal fraud referral form has been introduced which has helped 'streamline' the process of reporting fraud internally. The form is available on InSite and is being used.</p>	<p>The hotline and the website 'somesetfraud.org.uk' have been established, with the legal team receiving referrals and forwarding them on as appropriate. The Fraud Forum has not met since the Chair changed jobs 9 months ago and a replacement is yet to be found. The key issue is lack of investigative resource for non-housing benefit cases. This gap we hope to plug using Oxford City Council's Team.</p>
	<p><b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b> 1.15, 2.1, 4.3, 4.7</p>		
	<p><b>Priority</b> High</p>		
	<p><b>Resources</b> These need to be established –(hopefully Oxford City Council's Investigative Team can help to some degree). Resources to administer Hotline and website need to be addressed post Transformation</p>		
	<p><b>Outcome</b> Fraud hotline and website working well</p>		
	<p><b>Performance Measure</b> Number of referrals and quality of data received</p>		

Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
4.2	<p><b>Future resources to receive referrals through the fraud hotline and website to be considered.</b> Prompted by the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act (2013), which gives councils sole power in the prosecution of tenancy offences, a campaign known as 'Know a Cheat in Your Street' was run by the Somerset Tenancy Fraud Forum. In order to ensure the success of this campaign, consideration needs to be given to the resources in place to handle fraud referrals, as although the Investigations team at SSDC currently receive them, they are due to transfer to DWP in the near future.</p> <p><b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b> 1.5, 1.18, 1.19, 3.10, 5.2  <b>Priority</b> Medium-High  <b>Resources</b> See 4.1 -  <b>Outcome</b> Arrangements to ensure that the data generated through fraud referrals continues to be investigated  <b>Performance Measure</b> Successful investigation of hotline and website referrals, and recovery of any fraud losses</p>	Current referrals are being handled efficiently but resources may need review if the number of referrals increases markedly.	For the time being, SSDC staff are handling all Somerset referrals, and passing them to the appropriate local authority or housing association.
Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
4.3	<p><b>More probing and directed investigative reviewed to be conducted in key areas of fraud risk.</b> In addition to the regular audits undertaken by SWAP into reducing fraud, the SWCFP have been contracted to conduct investigative reviews into several specific at risk areas.</p> <p>I) <b>Social Housing Tenancy Fraud:</b> The common need register has been recognised as an area at risk from fraud,</p> <p>II) <b>Procurement fraud:</b> Procurement fraud is a significant area of loss,</p> <p>III) <b>Council tax discounts and exemptions:</b> to evaluate the extent of fraud around council tax administration</p> <p>IV) <b>Grant Fraud:</b> before and after the awarding of a grant and to assess the quality of the preventative measures in place at both of these stages.</p> <p>V) <b>Insurance Fraud:</b> It has been seen nationally that significant sums of public money are lost to insurance fraud.</p>	<p>Successful audit of the Needs Register was completed.</p> <p>SWCFP presented an Interim Report on findings from their Contract Management and ICT Investigative Review. The reports has been reviewed by the Fraud and Data Manager but lack of resource has meant there has been no further progress on addressing</p>	<p>Grant Fraud and Insurance Fraud have been the subject of recent audits.</p> <p>The need for a further procurement audit has been identified from the Investigative review into contract matters. This work will be progressed when resources are secured.</p>

issues identified (other than bringing them to the attention of the relevant Assistant Director). Further work is needed on these issues.

The Revenues and Benefits Manager has carried out some compliance work on council tax with funding secured by the Somerset Councils

<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	2.1, 3.7, 3.19 , 4.1, 4.6
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Resources</b>	Need to establish resources for this work. SWAP audit capability depends on the number of days available in the audit plan
<b>Outcome</b>	Evaluation as to the effectiveness of safeguards in place to prevent grant fraud from occurring
<b>Performance Measure</b>	Identification of the areas and safeguards relating to corporate fraud which are in need of revision

Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
4.4	<p><b>Somerset Councils to be engaged in the fraud referral process on the website 'somersetfraud.org.uk'.</b> Though capable of receiving referrals in all Somerset authorities, all information will initially be directed to the SSDC Fraud Investigation Team. This cannot continue indefinitely due to resource issues, so discussions with other councils in Somerset must take place to delegate the workload appropriately, and to ensure resources for the future.</p>	<p>No progress as yet, although not a high priority as in reality virtually all the referrals that have come through are relating to South Somerset.</p>	<p>The loss of the Chair of the Fraud Forum has meant there have been no meetings in the last 9 months at least. No replacement Chair has emerged so currently there is no impetus from the other Somerset Councils to increase the usage of the website and phone line so there are no issues re capacity in receiving and logging the referrals. The prime gap for SSDC is the lack of an internal Investigative resource to which we can refer cases when detailed investigation is needed. The Revenues and Benefits Team have been doing some initial checks into council tax allegations but further investigative work cannot be progressed. It is planned to help bridge the gap by using Oxford City Council's investigative team once all contractual and data protection issues have been resolved.</p>
<b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b>	1.15, 2.1, 4.3, 4.7		
<b>Priority</b>	Medium		
<b>Resources</b>	Senior Management of each of the Somerset Councils to establish the available resources in their authority		
<b>Outcome</b>	Resources for handling county wide referrals established at other Somerset Councils		
<b>Performance Measure</b>	Further promotion of the website, and the ease with which the data reaches the appropriate authority		

Ref	Key task	Status	Additional Comments
4.5	<p><b>Discussions with Somerset County Council to be held over the financing of further resources to investigate council tax fraud.</b> Considering that the principal sum (just over 70%) of council tax levied goes to the County Council, SSDC will discuss the financing of resources to investigate the fraudulent receipt of council tax discounts or exemptions with SCC, as it is they who principally benefit from any sums recovered. Council tax fraud has not traditionally been treated as such by the Council, with prosecutions rarely occurring. However, the shift from centralised to localised administration of council tax has meant that financial losses are felt more directly by the Council, so SSDC should reassess its response.</p>	The Somerset Benefit Managers have sought financial contribution from the major precepting authorities for additional resources to aid in identifying errors in Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions.	The Revenues and Benefits Managers in the Somerset Districts/Borough have secured some funds from Somerset County Council to do some compliance and data matching work e.g. Single Person Discount reviews
	<p><b>Section in Fraud Strategy</b> 3.7</p> <p><b>Priority</b> <a href="#">Medium-Low</a></p> <p><b>Resources</b> Senior Management to establish the resources available</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> A schedule of meetings, undertaken with the aim of securing further investigative resources from SCC</p> <p><b>Performance Measure</b> A clear decision as to the provision of further resources, as well as the attitude SSDC are to adopt</p>		